

REMARKS

As amended, the claims patentably distinguish over the European Patent EP 0 564 741 cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement which Applicant filed on January 12, 2005.

Currently pending in this application are claims 2-4, 10, and 14-25. Claims 1, 5-9 and 11-13 have been cancelled and claims 19-25 are new. Claims 2 and 10 have been amended.

Specifically, claim 19 is an independent claim which patentably distinguishes over the European reference. Claim 19 requires a first hydrophilic band surrounding the main liner tube and positioned between the main liner tube and main pipe line on one side of "the T or Y pipe joint of the main pipe line to the lateral pipe line." The claim also requires a second hydrophilic band surrounding the main liner tube and being positioned between the main liner tube and the main pipe line "on the other side of the T or Y pipe joint of the main pipe line to the lateral pipe line." Furthermore, claim 19 requires "the lateral bladder tube and a lateral liner tube being within the lateral pipe line, with the lateral bladder tube being inside the lateral liner tube and with the lateral liner tube being between the lateral pipe line and the lateral tube."

In contrast, the European patent shows hydrophilic seals 24 which are positioned on opposite sides of a damaged part 26 of the pipe line 7. They are not positioned on opposite sides of a T or Y shaped juncture between a main pipe line and a lateral pipe line as required by claim 19. Furthermore, there is no lateral bladder tube or lateral liner tube positioned within a lateral pipe line as required by claim 19.

This is a distinction between the European patent application and Applicant's invention which would not be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. It is very difficult to conceive how a T-shaped liner and T-shaped bladder can be utilized to have the lateral liner and the lateral

bladder extend within a lateral pipe line while at the same time having a main liner and a main bladder connected thereto and within the main pipe line. The positioning of the hydrophilic seals on opposite sides of the juncture between the lateral pipe line and the main pipe line defies the imagination of one skilled in the art because one skilled in the art would not be able to ascertain how to connect and move the lateral liner and the lateral bladder to the position shown in Applicant's drawings. Accordingly, claim 19 defines the subject matter which is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 2-4 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 19 and are patentable for the reasons set forth as to that claim. Furthermore, claim 10 requires a third hydrophilic band surrounding the lateral liner tube and positioned between the lateral liner tube and the lateral pipe line. There is no disclosure of a third hydrophilic seal surrounding the lateral liner tube as required by claim 10 and therefore claim 10 further patentably distinguishes over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 20 is an apparatus claim requiring "a carrier tube having a cylindrical tube wall within the main pipe line adjacent the T or Y pipe joint, the carrier tube wall having an opening therein." The T or Y shaped bladder assembly is required to comprise "a main bladder tube on the exterior of the carrier tube wall and a lateral liner tube inside the carrier tube wall." Furthermore, "a T or Y shaped liner assembly comprising a main liner tube on the exterior of the carrier tube wall and the main bladder tube, and having a lateral liner tube inside the carrier tube wall and the lateral bladder tube." The claim further requires first and second hydrophilic bands surrounding the main liner tube on opposite sides of the pipe joint of the main pipe to the lateral pipe line.

Again, the European patent, while showing first and second hydrophilic bands 24, does not show these bands being located on opposite sides of a lateral pipe joint. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of a carrier tube in which the lateral liner tube and the lateral bladder tube are inserted for inverting into the lateral pipe line. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not find it obvious to construct the combination of independent claim 20.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is patentable for the reasons set forth as to that claim. Furthermore, it requires a third hydrophilic band inside the lateral liner tube that is within the lateral bladder tube and the third hydrophilic band is required to be between the lateral liner tube and the lateral pipe line after the inversion of the lateral liner tube into the lateral pipe line. There is no suggestion of a third hydrophilic seal which contains this structure and there is no disclosure of how such a third hydrophilic seal could be used to create a seal between the lateral liner tube and the lateral pipe line.

Claim 22 is an independent method claim requiring the same features as claim 17. According, claim 22 is believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth as to claim 17.

Claims 23-25 depend from claim 22 and are patentable for the reasons set forth as to that claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any

additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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